

## **Exhibit 2**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SKATTEFORVALTNINGEN,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
BASALT VENTURES LLC ROTH 401(K)  
PLAN, JOHN VAN MERKENSTEIJN, and  
MICHAEL BEN-JACOB,  
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 19-cv-01866

Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan

April 20, 2020

**AMENDED COMPLAINT**  
**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff Skatteforvaltningen<sup>1</sup> (“**SKAT**”), which is the Customs and Tax Administration of the Kingdom of Denmark, by its attorneys Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, alleges against Defendants Basalt Ventures LLC Roth 401(K) Plan (“**Basalt**”), John van Merkensteijn (“**van Merkensteijn**”), and Michael Ben-Jacob (“**Ben-Jacob**”) as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff SKAT is the agency of the government of Denmark charged with the assessment and collection of Danish taxes.

2. This case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (“**DKK**”), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.

3. The essence of the fraudulent scheme is that each of over 300 entities pretended to own shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index, the 20 most-traded

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1. At the time of the events alleged in this Amended Complaint, Plaintiff was known as “SKAT,” and thereafter, pursuant to Danish legal order 804, entered on June 6, 2018, Plaintiff changed its legal name to Skatteforvaltningen, effective July 1, 2018.

stocks in Denmark. The Danish companies are required to withhold 27% tax on dividends they pay to shareholders. Under certain double taxation treaties between Denmark and other countries, including the United States, this tax is reimbursable to non-Danish shareholders that meet certain qualifications.

4. The entities, acting through their agents and representatives, applied to SKAT claiming repayments of tax withheld on dividends that they purported to have earned on shares of Danish companies. These applications were fraudulent because the claimants did not own the shares that they claimed to own, did not earn the dividends they claimed to have earned, and were not entitled to the tax refunds they claimed. These applications were also fraudulent because the claimants falsely represented that they met the qualifications set forth in the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States for a full repayment of the tax withheld on dividends.

5. The claimants effectuated the scheme by appointing agents to apply to SKAT for refunds in respect of shares in Danish companies that they did not own. The agents submitted the fraudulent applications at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants and their authorized representatives, with false documentation representing that the claimants owned substantial shares in Danish companies, had earned substantial dividends for which tax had been withheld, and were entitled to a tax refund. The agents obtained over \$2.1 billion in refunds from SKAT, and distributed the proceeds of the scheme to the claimants and other participants in the fraud. During the period of 2012 to 2015, SKAT received fraudulent requests for tax refunds from several agents on behalf of 277 pension plans in the United States, including Defendant Basalt, as well as entities in the United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia, and Luxembourg.

6. On June 15, 2015, SKAT received information indicating that certain claimants may have submitted fraudulent tax refund claims based on the double taxation treaty between

Denmark and Malaysia. Based on this information, SKAT undertook an investigation and subsequently discovered that the claimants had submitted requests for tax refunds by misrepresenting that they owned shares in Danish companies, had earned substantial dividend income on their shares, and were entitled to refunds of tax withheld in respect of those dividends. Through its investigation, SKAT discovered that these representations were false: the claimants did not own the shares and they were not entitled to a refund of withholding tax.

7. As a result of these false claims, the claimants and their agents received cash payments of what were supposed to be “refunds” of tax to which they were not entitled. During the course of its investigation, SKAT also learned that the scheme involved entities and individuals not just in Malaysia, but also in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Luxembourg.

8. On or about August 24, 2015, SKAT stopped paying all claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax while it investigated the fraudulent scheme. At the same time, SKAT reported the alleged fraud to the Danish Public Prosecutor for Serious Economic and International Crime (“SØIK”). The fraudulent scheme is currently under investigation by law enforcement authorities in Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany, and other jurisdictions. At least three individuals have been criminally charged by SØIK.

9. The claimants obtained substantial assistance in the fraudulent scheme from several other entities and individuals, including, but not limited to:

a. The Authorized Representatives of the claimants, such as Defendant van Merkenstijn, who, among other things, executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants documents authorizing the Payment Agents to submit the claimants’ tax refund claims and to receive from SKAT payments in respect of those claims;

b. The non-party Payment Agents, which are companies that submitted fraudulent tax refund claims to SKAT at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimants and Authorized Representatives; and

c. The non-party Broker-Custodians, which are financial institutions that provided statements falsely representing that the claimants owned shares in Danish companies and had earned dividends on those shares.

10. The Defendants did know or should have known that these false representations would cause SKAT to make payments to which the Defendants were not entitled.

11. SKAT made all the payments to the claimants' Payment Agents, which, on information and belief, distributed the proceeds to other participants in the fraud, including the claimants and the Authorized Representatives.

12. As a result of the overall fraudulent scheme, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims of approximately \$2.1 billion (US).

13. As a result of the fraudulent claims by the Defendants in this action, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims and was damaged in the amount of DKK 27,853,521, or at least \$4,214,000 (US)<sup>2</sup>, plus interest.

## **II. JURISDICTION & VENUE**

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(4), this Court has jurisdiction over all claims because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state and citizens of a state or of different states.

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2. This amount is the result of a conversion from DKK to U.S. Dollars performed on February 11, 2019, utilizing a conversion rate of 1 U.S. Dollar to 6.6086 DKK.

15. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District. In the alternative, venue is proper because at least one of the Defendants is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

### **III. PARTIES**

16. Plaintiff SKAT is the agency of the government of Denmark charged with the assessment and collection of Danish taxes. SKAT is located at Østbanegade 123, 2200 København Ø, Denmark. During the period material to the events described in this Amended Complaint, SKAT used a mailing address of Skatteceter Høje-Taastrup, Postboks 60, DK-2630 Taastrup, Denmark.

17. Defendant Basalt is a pension plan which, in its requests to SKAT for tax refunds, listed its address as 425 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, USA. On information and belief, each participant, or member, of Defendant Basalt is a citizen of a State of the United States. At all times material to the allegations in this Amended Complaint, Defendant Basalt purported to be a trust forming part of a pension, profit sharing, or stock bonus plan qualified under section 401(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and resident of the United States of America for purposes of U.S. taxation.

18. Defendant van Merkenstijn is a citizen of the State of New York. At all times material to the allegations in this Amended Complaint, Defendant van Merkenstijn was the sole participant in and served as the Authorized Representative for Defendant Basalt.

19. Defendant Ben-Jacob is a citizen of the State of New York. At times relevant to the allegations in this Amended Complaint, Defendant Ben-Jacob worked at a law firm whose offices were located at 425 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, the same address listed by Defendant Basalt in its fraudulent refund claims to SKAT.

#### **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

##### **A. The Danish Withholding Tax System**

20. Withholding tax is a common fiscal device by which taxes are deducted at the source by a payer of income, and are reported to the relevant tax authority. In this case, the relevant tax authority is SKAT.

21. Under the Danish Withholding Tax Act section 65, Danish companies are required to withhold 27% of the dividend distributed as to their shares.

22. Foreign shareholders may be entitled to a refund if the withheld tax exceeds the amount of tax owed according to a double taxation treaty between Denmark and the shareholder's country of residence.

23. A double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States<sup>3</sup> ("the Treaty") allows for a full refund of tax withheld on dividends paid by Danish companies to qualified U.S. pension plans, which are exempt from taxation. In order to qualify for a full refund under the Treaty, the U.S. pension plans must possess tax-qualified status under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and the dividend serving as the basis of the refund request cannot arise from the carrying on of a business by the pension fund. For the reasons set forth in further detail below, the pension plan claimants, including Defendant Basalt, did not satisfy these requirements and were therefore not entitled under the Treaty to the refunds they claimed from SKAT.

24. SKAT paid claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax made by claimants who represented that they were qualified pension plans, had shareholdings in Danish companies, and had received dividends on those shareholdings net of the tax. The claimants submitted refund

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3. Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Denmark, U.S.-Den., art. 10, ¶ 3(c), May 2, 2006, S. Treaty Doc. No. 109-19 (amending Convention and Protocol Between the United States and Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, U.S.-Den., Aug. 19, 1999, S. Treaty Doc. No. 106-12).

claims seeking the full 27% withholding tax that had allegedly been withheld from distributions on shares that the claimants purported to own.

25. It was SKAT's normal practice to accept claims from designated payment agents and to transmit refunds to claimants through their designated payment agents.

#### **B. The Fraudulent Scheme**

26. As a result of its investigation, SKAT determined that, during the period 2012 through 2015, it received fraudulent dividend withholding tax refund claims as part of a scheme involving (i) a pension plan or other claimant, (ii) an Authorized Representative, (iii) a Payment Agent, and (iv) a Broker-Custodian. The respective roles of each of these participants are described in further detail in paragraphs 34 through 68 below.

##### **1. The Fraudulent Refund Claims Process**

27. The claimants submitted fraudulent claims to SKAT through Payment Agents, including non-party Goal TaxBack Limited ("Goal"), each of which submitted claims by mail or by email transmissions.

28. The claimants received payments with respect to their refund claims from their designated Payment Agents, to which SKAT transmitted payment by bank transfer.

29. Each of the claimants provided the following documentation to SKAT through their designated agents:

a. a short cover letter, printed on a Payment Agent's letterhead and addressed to SKAT in Taastrup, Denmark;

b. a SKAT "Claim to Relief from Danish Dividend Tax" form (the "Claim Form"), which set out:

i. the identity of the claimant representing that it owned the relevant shares and had received dividends net of withholding tax;

ii. the amount of the tax refund claim;

iii. a certification that the claimant was covered by the relevant double taxation treaty between Denmark and the country in which the claimant was resident; and

iv. the bank account to which SKAT should pay the claim;

c. a “credit advice” note purporting to describe the shareholding (or security) and the amount of dividend tax withheld;

d. a signed Power of Attorney, by which the claimant’s Authorized Representative appointed a Payment Agent to act on behalf of the stated claimant; and

e. in respect of United States-based pension plans, a statement from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), certifying that each pension plan was (I) a trust forming part of a pension, profit sharing, or stock bonus plan qualified under section 401(a) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), (II) exempt from U.S. taxation under section 501(a) of the Code, and (III) resident in the United States for purposes of United States taxation.

30. By filing a refund application requesting the full 27% refund and enclosing the statement from the IRS, the United States pension plan claimants falsely represented to SKAT that they were qualified U.S. pension plans entitled to the maximum refunds provided by the Treaty.

31. The fraudulent claims alleged shareholdings in some of the largest Danish listed companies belonging to the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index in Denmark.

32. It was SKAT’s practice to pay claims that included the required supporting documentation.

33. SKAT made payments by bank transfer to the Payment Agents for the benefit of the claimants.

## **2. The Role of the Claimants**

34. Out of the over 300 claimants that SKAT has, to date, determined were participants in the fraudulent scheme, 277 were in the United States.

35. Each of the claimants, including Defendant Basalt, made withholding tax refund claims through their Payment Agents, as described in paragraph 29, above.

36. As part of the fraudulent claims, each of the Authorized Representatives confirmed to SKAT that they were agents of the claimants and were authorized to act on behalf of the claimants with respect to the dividend withholding tax refund claims. Defendant Basalt represented that Defendant van Merkenstein was its Authorized Representative and agent who had authority to act on its behalf with respect to Defendant Basalt's claims.

37. As part of their fraudulent claims, each of the claimants designated one of the Payment Agents as its agent to act on behalf of that claimant with respect to the claim. Defendant Basalt represented that non-party Goal was its agent and had authority to act on its behalf with respect to its claims.

38. Each of the claimants represented to SKAT that they held shares in, and received dividends net of withholding tax from, large Danish listed companies. Defendant Basalt made fifteen (15) separate withholding tax refund claims, and represented that it was entitled to refunds totaling DKK 27,853,521, or at least \$4,214,000 (US). These refund claims were submitted to SKAT on the following dates: November 27, 2014; April 14, 2015; April 16, 2015; April 21, 2015; April 23, 2015; April 27, 2015; and May 15, 2015.

39. In fact, Defendant Basalt did not own the shares it represented to SKAT that it owned, and had no dividend tax withheld.

40. In addition to falsely representing that it owned the shares that were the subject of the refund claims, Defendant Basalt falsely represented to SKAT in each refund claim that it was a qualified U.S. pension plan entitled to a full refund under the Treaty. This representation was false because Defendant Basalt did not meet the criteria for a qualified pension plan set forth in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and purportedly carried on debt-financed activities in breach of the Treaty's prohibition on such activities by a pension plan.

41. Far from being a qualified pension plan, Defendant Basalt was a sham entity sponsored by a shell company, non-party Basalt Ventures LLC. Defendant Basalt was created solely for the purpose of submitting false refund claims to SKAT to advance the Defendants' fraudulent scheme. Basalt Ventures LLC conducted no trade or business and had no employees. Further, Basalt Ventures LLC and Defendant Basalt were both established shortly before Defendant Basalt submitted its first refund claim to SKAT. As a result, Defendant Basalt cannot have satisfied the requirements in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code to be a qualified pension plan.

42. Defendant Basalt's representation that it was a qualified pension plan was false because it did not operate for the exclusive benefit of the sponsoring entity's employees and their beneficiaries. Basalt Ventures LLC did not conduct any trade or business, did not have any employees, and did not operate exclusively for the benefit of its employees. Rather, Defendant Basalt was maintained principally for the benefit of its custodians, Telesto Markets LLP and Old Park Lane Capital PLC, and/or other entities and individuals who were participants in the fraud. After SKAT paid the amount requested in Defendant Basalt's refund claims, the plan subsequently directed or permitted the transfer of the large majority of the illicit proceeds of the scheme to these other individuals and entities.

43. Defendant Basalt's representation that it was a qualified pension plan was also false because it was not established with the intent that it be a "permanent" program. Defendant Basalt was created for the sole purpose of serving as a vehicle for making fraudulent refund claims to SKAT, and was only intended to operate for as long as the fraudulent scheme was undiscovered and ongoing.

44. Defendant Basalt's representation that it was a qualified pension plan was also false because it was not properly funded. As an entity established by a shell corporation that conducted no trade or business and therefore had no employees, Defendant Basalt cannot have obtained funding from a proper source and cannot have complied with the contribution rules in section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. To the extent that Defendant Basalt received funding from sources outside of its plan sponsor, such activity would similarly violate the funding requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and disqualify Defendant Basalt from being a qualified pension plan.

45. Defendant Basalt also falsely represented to SKAT that it was entitled to a full refund under the Treaty to the extent that it engaged in any activities that were debt-financed, in breach of the Treaty's prohibition on the carrying on of leveraged investment activities by a pension fund.

46. Based on the false representations in the refund claims described in paragraphs 38 through 45, SKAT made payments totaling DKK 27,853,521, or at least \$4,214,000 (US), to Defendant Basalt on the following dates: December 19, 2014; May 8, 2015; May 19, 2015; June 24, 2015; and July 1, 2015.

47. On information and belief, Defendant van Merkensteijn caused Defendant Basalt's fraudulent claims to be submitted to SKAT. Defendant van Merkensteijn exerted control over Defendant Basalt as the plan's sole participant, and used this control to commit the fraud on SKAT.

Defendant van Merkenstein was the sole participant in six different pension plans that submitted fraudulent refund claims to SKAT, and a participant with three others in three additional plans. Defendant van Merkenstein's wife was also the sole participant in a pension plan that submitted fraudulent claims to SKAT.

48. Defendant Ben-Jacob played a coordinating role on behalf of at least 39 different pension plan claimants that submitted fraudulent refund claims to SKAT. This role involved assisting in the formation of numerous pension plans and LLCs that served as the plans' sponsors, coordinating the onboarding process whereby the plans became clients of the Broker-Custodians that created the fraudulent credit advice documents, and signing powers of attorney appointing the Payment Agents to submit the plans' refund claims to SKAT.

49. Defendant Ben-Jacob also facilitated the creation of partnership agreements among the pension plans and others who were not participants in the particular plans. These partnership agreements, among other things, allocated the large majority of the funds received from SKAT to the non-plan participant partners. Defendant Ben-Jacob did so with knowledge that, pursuant to the partnership agreements, the non-plan participants would receive most of the proceeds that the pension plans received from SKAT. At times, Defendant Ben-Jacob also directed the transfer of the fraudulently obtained proceeds to the various participants in the scheme, including to the non-plan participant partners.

50. For example, on November 5, 2015, shortly after SKAT's discovery of the tax refund scheme, Defendant Ben-Jacob wrote a letter to custodian Telesto Markets LLP directing the transfer of the illicit proceeds remaining in Defendant Basalt's custodial account to the plan's U.S. bank account. Defendant Ben-Jacob provided the plan's bank account information and signed the letter as Defendant Basalt's "attorney-in-fact."

51. On that same day, Defendant Ben-Jacob signed and sent identical letters to four different Broker-Custodians on behalf of at least 37 different pension plan claimants. Defendant Ben-Jacob directed the transfer of these amounts with knowledge that the pension plans were created solely to advance the Defendants' fraudulent scheme and were not entitled to the refunds they claimed from SKAT.

52. Defendant Ben-Jacob also allowed Defendants Basalt and van Merkensteijn to use his office address of 425 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022 in the fraudulent refund claims they submitted to SKAT. In addition to Defendant Basalt, at least 33 other claimants that pretended to own shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index also listed Defendant Ben-Jacob's office addresses of 425 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022 or 250 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 in the fraudulent tax refund claims they submitted to SKAT.

53. Defendant Ben-Jacob signed Power of Attorney documents as the Authorized Representative for at least nine of the 277 U.S. claimants that fraudulently requested tax refunds from SKAT. Six of these claimants listed Defendant Ben-Jacob's New York office addresses in their fraudulent refund claims to SKAT.

54. Defendant Ben-Jacob also participated in the fraudulent scheme by, among other things, signing Power of Attorney documents on behalf of the Authorized Representative for at least 20 different claimants, thereby assisting in the execution of the documents and the appointment of the Payment Agent for purposes of submitting the fraudulent claims.

### **3. The Role of the Claimants' Authorized Representatives**

55. Each Authorized Representative executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, the claimant for which he or she was the Authorized Representative a form entitled "Power of Attorney." By the Power of Attorney, the claimant, acting through its respective Authorized Representative, granted the Payment Agent authority to act on behalf of the claimant.

56. Defendant van Merkensteijn executed at the direction of, and on behalf of, Defendant Basalt a “Power of Attorney” dated August 22, 2014, that granted to Payment Agent Goal authority “to be the attorney of [Basalt] and in [Basalt’s] name and otherwise on [Basalt’s] behalf and as [Basalt’s] act and deed to sign, seal, execute, deliver, perfect and do all deeds, instruments, acts and things which may be required (or which [Goal] shall consider requisite) for or in connection with the provision of any tax services provided to [Basalt] from time to time, including the reclaiming from any taxation authority in any jurisdiction (as appropriate) amounts in respect of payments made to [Basalt] or through [Goal] on behalf of [Basalt].”

57. As a result of the executed Power of Attorney, Payment Agent Goal also agreed to act for Defendant van Merkensteijn and be subject to his direction and control with respect to Defendant Basalt’s fraudulent claims to SKAT.

58. Defendant van Merkensteijn executed the Power of Attorney with knowledge that the plan was a sham, was established by a shell entity with no business or trade or employees, was not properly funded, was not a permanent program, was not established for the exclusive benefit of its sponsor’s employees, and was not entitled to a refund under the Treaty.

59. At times material to the allegations in this Amended Complaint, Defendant van Merkensteijn served as a Managing Director of a financial services firm based at 40 West 57th Street, New York, NY. At least nine claimants listed that firm’s West 57th street address in their fraudulent tax refund claims to SKAT. In addition, at least four different officers and/or employees of that firm signed Power of Attorney documents as the Authorized Representatives of one or more of 35 claimants that pretended to own shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index.

60. Defendant van Merkenstein signed Power of Attorney documents as the Authorized Representative for at least six claimants, including Defendant Basalt. Two of these claimants listed the financial services firm's West 57th Street address in their fraudulent refund claims to SKAT, and a third listed Defendant van Merkenstein's New York home address.

#### **4. The Role of the Payment Agents**

61. The Payment Agents submitted the fraudulent withholding tax refund claims at the direction of the claimants and Authorized Representatives and on behalf of the claimants.

62. By means of the Power of Attorney described in paragraphs 55-56 above, each claimant and Authorized Representative authorized their respective Payment Agent to act on their behalf and be subject to their control with respect to submitting the withholding tax refund claims.

63. With each claim, the Payment Agents submitted substantially similar cover letters attaching the documentation described in paragraph 29 above. The documentation attached to the cover letter falsely represented to SKAT that Defendant Basalt was a qualified pension plan that satisfied the criteria under the Treaty and was therefore entitled to a full 27% refund.

64. In connection with each Claim Form, the Payment Agent:

- a. provided its email address as the contact address for the claimant on whose behalf it was acting;
- b. signed and stamped the form, and stated it was applying on behalf of the claimant;
- c. enclosed the Power of Attorney executed by the claimant's Authorized Representative; and
- d. requested that SKAT pay the claim to its bank account.

65. As per the directions included in the submission to SKAT, the Payment Agents received payment of the refunds from SKAT on behalf of the claimants. On information and

belief, the Payment Agents subsequently distributed the proceeds to the claimants and other participants in the fraud, including the Authorized Representatives, and the Payment Agents themselves.

### **5. The Role of the Broker-Custodians**

66. Each entity claiming a withholding tax refund submitted to SKAT a “credit advice,” “income advice,” “tax voucher” or similar document from a Broker-Custodian that purported to show the claimant’s ownership of shares in Danish companies listed on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index.

67. By way of example, with respect to Defendant Basalt, one example of a “Credit Advice”:

- a. is made out by Telesto Markets LLP;
- b. is dated May 11, 2015;
- c. purports to certify Defendant Basalt’s ownership of 294,679 shares in Coloplast-B (a genuine company), whose shares were (and are) publicly traded on the OMX Copenhagen 20 Index in Denmark; and
- d. states an International Securities Identification Number (“ISIN”) for Coloplast-B shares as “DK0060448595”. An ISIN is a twelve-character alpha-numeric code that uniquely identifies securities for trading and settlement purposes.

68. Defendant Basalt, which was not a qualified U.S. pension plan for purposes of the Treaty, never owned the shares described above, never received any dividend from Danish companies in which it was a purported shareholder and was not entitled to claim a refund of dividend withholding tax.

## **CAUSES OF ACTION**

### **COUNT I**

#### **(Fraud – Against Defendants Basalt and van Merkensteijn)**

69. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 68 above as if fully set forth herein.

70. Defendants intentionally, knowingly and/or recklessly made or caused to be made the material, false and fraudulent statements described in paragraphs 29 through 31, 38 through 45, and 66 through 68 to support claims for withholding tax refund payments.

71. Defendants intentionally, knowingly, and/or recklessly made or caused to be made these false and fraudulent statements to induce SKAT to pay the claims.

72. In reliance on the false and fraudulent misrepresentations, SKAT paid baseless withholding tax refund claims of DKK 27,853,521, or at least \$4,214,000 (US), and thereby suffered damages of that amount, plus interest.

73. Defendants' extensive fraudulent conduct demonstrates a high degree of moral turpitude and wanton dishonesty, entitling SKAT to punitive damages.

### **COUNT II**

#### **(Aiding and Abetting Fraud – Against All Defendants)**

74. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 73 above as if fully set forth herein.

75. As alleged above, a massive fraud was perpetrated on SKAT by the claimants, the Authorized Representatives, the Payment Agents, and/or other non-parties.

76. As alleged in paragraphs 26 through 68 above, the Defendants, with knowledge, participated in the massive fraud on SKAT.

77. The Defendants acted with knowledge, willful blindness, and/or recklessness in submitting claims for refunds of dividend withholding tax to SKAT with knowledge that they were not entitled to receive any refunds.

78. The Defendants intentionally furthered the fraud and substantially assisted the fraud through their conduct described in paragraphs 26 through 68 above.

79. As a direct and natural cause of the Defendants' aiding and abetting of the fraudulent scheme, SKAT has suffered substantial damages.

80. Defendants' extensive fraudulent conduct demonstrates a high degree of moral turpitude and wanton dishonesty, entitling SKAT to punitive damages.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Payment By Mistake – Against All Defendants)**

81. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 80 above as if fully set forth herein.

82. This is a claim for monies SKAT paid to the Defendants because of mistaken understandings of fact.

83. SKAT paid the Defendants the amounts claimed as withholding tax refunds with the mistaken understanding that the Defendants had submitted valid claims with valid supporting documentation.

84. SKAT's mistaken belief was material to its decision to pay the claims.

85. SKAT suffered a loss as a result of its mistaken payments.

86. The Defendants are liable to account and pay to SKAT the payments that SKAT made in error to the Defendants, plus interest.

**COUNT IV**

**(Unjust Enrichment – Against All Defendants)**

87. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 86 above as if fully set forth herein.

88. This is a claim by SKAT for recovery of monies by which the Defendants were unjustly enriched.

89. By obtaining proceeds from withholding tax refund claims, directly or indirectly, to which they were not entitled, the Defendants were unjustly enriched.

90. SKAT suffered a loss because of the Defendants' unjust enrichment.

91. The Defendants are liable to account and pay to SKAT the amount of dividend withholding tax refund payments they received from SKAT to which they were not entitled, plus interest.

**COUNT V**

**(Money Had & Received – Against All Defendants)**

92. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 91 above as if fully set forth herein.

93. As a result of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants received proceeds from withholding tax refunds to which they were not entitled.

94. It is against equity and good conscience to permit Defendants to keep these monies, and they should account for and pay to SKAT the amount of withholding tax refund payments they received to which they were not entitled, plus interest.

## **COUNT VI**

### **(Negligent Misrepresentation – Against Defendants Basalt and van Merkenstein)**

95. SKAT repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 94 above as if fully set forth herein.

96. In submitting claims for withholding tax refund payments, Defendants had a duty to SKAT to provide claims information that was truthful, accurate, and complete in all material respects.

97. Defendants made material misstatements described in paragraphs 29 through 31, 38 through 45, and 66 through 68 above in connection with the withholding tax refund claims they submitted or caused to be submitted to SKAT. Defendants knew, or should have known, that these statements were inaccurate.

98. Defendants intended their material misstatements to induce SKAT to rely upon them, and Defendants expected SKAT to rely upon them.

99. SKAT reasonably relied on the misstatements while reviewing Defendants' claims, and as a direct and proximate result incurred damages of DKK 27,853,521, or at least \$4,214,000 (US), plus interest.

## **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff SKAT requests that this Court enter judgment in its favor against Defendants as follows:

1. For Counts I, II and VI, for fraud, aiding and abetting fraud, and negligent misrepresentation, the damages sustained by SKAT as a result of the Defendants' wrongful acts, plus pre-judgment interest, fees, costs and expenses.

2. For Counts III, IV, and V, for payment by mistake, unjust enrichment, and money had and received, the damages sustained or the amounts by which the Defendants were paid by mistake or unjustly enriched, or by which the Defendants received money to which they were not entitled, plus pre-judgment interest, fees, costs and expenses.
3. For Counts I and II, punitive damages.
4. The costs of this action.
5. All other and further relief that is just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff SKAT demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

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